तव कथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

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ONLY KRISHNA IS ALL-KNOWING

A Lecture by
Srila Bhaktisiddhanta
Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada

Political troubles are not bad in themselves. They are part and parcel of divine governance. We feel troubled only due to our ignorance of their real significance. But it is not for us or anyone to fully know the ways of God. We are only aware of that much of the divine activity as is helpful to us for His service. The least particle of such knowledge is more than sufficient for all the purposes of our pure souls. The person who knows God does not understand His ways in the sense in which Godhead understands them. He understands them in the measure that is necessary for having his conscious share in those activities as a subservient of His subservients. Admission to the plane of service is equivalent to the cessation of spiritual ignorance.Spiritual enlightenment does not mean that the person so enlightened understands all things as God Himself understands them, either of this or of any other world. What such a person actually understands is his own relationship to and location in the uncovered plane of the Absolute Reality. Instead of being an insignificant ignorant actor in this mundane cosmos, he finds himself to be the most insignificant conscious entity in the plane of the supermundane sphere of all-existence, all-knowledge and all-joy. He consciously shares in the life of that realm in the tiny measure of his eligibility for the service of God.

On this mundane plane in the conditioned state we are anxious to know all things in the fullest measure, even as God Himself knows them. This bad ambition, properly enough, is impossible of realization. If it were possible for us to know everything, the distinction between God and ourselves would cease. Such ambition is the outcome of our attitude of disloyalty towards God. It proves that we are not willing to tolerate the domination of God. We are anxious to become God. This unnatural delusion is kept up by our experiences of this world.

We seem to be constantly progressing towards the knowledge that will give us final mastery over everything. But do we really possess mastery over anything? Or are we forced to serve the purpose of Godhead by the driving force of His irresistible deluding energy, even while we are dreaming of establishing our own impending supremacy? But why are we permitted to progress in the knowledge of how to apparently dominate the entities of this world? Why are we permitted to consolidate our seeming power over the things of this world? Is it intended by God that we should enjoy this world and other worlds as proprietors even as God Himself, or at least as His co-partners? Is such

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consummation compatible with the existence of Godship? And over whom are we to exercise our Godly rule? If everybody is God, then there would be no entity that it would be necessary to exercise any power over. The idea that it is possible for us to have any real power over any entity is philosophically ridiculous.

Have we any control over our own body and mind? Why do we die, if we are really masters of our own destiny? Why are we ignorant at all? If we can be made ignorant, can we not also be made enlightened by the same agency? But can such enlightenment really make us anything other than the subservients of the agent?

Knowledge gives us power only so long as it is not taken away. Such permitted knowledge is not at all like knowledge that is possessed by God, in His own right. Permitted power also does not belong to us as its real proprietors. But what is the current view regarding the nature and possession of political power? Every nation is anxious to acquire power for the purpose of doing what it likes, with the same freedom and in the same dominating spirit as God Himself. Which of the nations is seriously thinking about the purpose of God in permitting them to have power for the time being? Why does every nation want to have more power than the other nations? Is it for serving God? Can God be served by mundane political power? Can the dead serve the living? Does God require food and drink that are apparently created by the bodily power of mortals for the nourishment of the body of flesh? Does He require speculations about the earthly existence that are vainly spun by the mental activities of erring man? If He requires neither, what can any nation really offer to God by way of their service? How can any nation suppose that it is being permitted to serve God by the intensification of the present godless physical and mental activities? God is afflicting mortals by permitting them freedom to shape their course in their own way without seeking His conscious guidance. The present scientific age is so sure of its capacity to take care of itself without reference to God that it is almost hopeless to expect it to reconsider its position in the light of these old and familiar truths. No real good can come out of any mortal endeavor, political or otherwise, if it is not undertaken with the conscious purpose of serving the will of God. It is necessary to seek to know the purpose of God. It is never possible for any person to know the full purpose of God. Furthermore, it is never possible for any person to know even the nature of God's purpose in regard to oneself, unless He is pleased to impart such knowledge out of His causeless mercy. God always keeps Himself aloof from the concerns of those who choose to keep their concerns to themselves. That is the plight of the nations of our day. That is the plight of the empiric scientists. They never ponder over the wise words of the Bible, 'What will it avail if we gain the world but lose our souls?'

Nothing is lost and everything is truly gained if we can only find our souls, if we can only find the purpose of God in those activities in which we are permitted to be engaged by His will. But it will be demanded, "How can we know anything about God with our present resources?" The answer is that we shall be permitted to know by His causeless mercy if we are only sincerely willing to submit to His guidance, but not otherwise. But are we really willing to submit to God in the manner that is directed by Him?

— Date and place of lecture unknown. Originally titled, "Divine Governance".

Gold for Krishna

His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

You have asked, "Could we use alchemy to make gold for Krishna's altar?" I cannot follow what you mean by using alchemy for Krishna's altar, but if you can make Krishna's sitting place made of gold, either by alchemy or by purchasing gold, it will be a grand success. But I do not advise you to take advantage of alchemy for making gold. It is not certain. We should not waste our time on that which is not very sure. If you can manufacture gold, then we can very soon spread our Krishna Consciousness. But I think that Krishna will not give us that opportunity because as soon as we get a large quantity of gold then we will forget Krishna. That nature is incumbent in our character.

— Letter to Rupanuga, 3 July 1968.

Dead Bodies Stay in Their Houses

Padayatra Arrival Lecture
Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

How long will you sleep in the lap of the ugly witch Maya? How long? You have already slept for such a long time, lakhs and lakhs of lives. Do you want to sleep in the lap of the ugly witch Maya?

Mahaprabhu is your only well-wishing friend. He loves you so much that He descended here,

tomāre loite āmi hoinu avatāra
āmi binā bandhu āra ke āche tomāra

"For you I descended. Is there any friend of yours but Me?"

He loves you so much and you have no tinge of love for Him.

enechi auṣadhi māyā nāśibāro lāgi'
hari-nāma mahā-mantra lao tumi māgi'

"I have brought medicine for you, to annihilate *māyā*, to annihilate ignorance, *avidyā*. That medicine is the *harināma mahā-mantra*."

hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare
hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare

If you put complete, full, strong and unflinching faith in taking this medicine, it will definitely cure you. Your ignorance will be annihilated and pure consciousness will arise. Your heart will immediately be purified of all material contamination. Then you can chant the pure name:

hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare
hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare

Saṅkīrtane janakau — Gauranga Mahaprabhu is the father of the *saṅkīrtana* movement. Gauranga *avatāra* is *prema-puruṣottama*, the giver of *kṛṣṇa-prema*; *mahā-vadānya avatāra*, the most munificent incarnation, who gives *kṛṣṇa-prema* freely through this *saṅkīrtana*. Mahaprabhu was doing *saṅkīrtana* here, chanting and dancing surrounded by His associates. It is He who first started this *saṅkīrtana-padayātrā*. This is the only remedy for the people of Kali-yuga. It will bring you all types of good fortune. Who can want more than that? He is such a well-wishing friend. He was chanting and dancing in the street,

hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare
hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare

adhane jatana kari dhana tejaginu
gaura-kīrtana-rase maghana nā ha-inu

[*Prārthanā*, song 42, texts 2 and 4]

Narottam Das Thakur says, "You have taken interest in collecting *adhana*, false wealth, and you are neglecting the real *dhana*, the real asset, this *prema-dhana* that Gauranga Mahaprabhu gives you through *saṅkīrtana*. Where *gaura-kīrtana* is going on, Gauranga Mahaprabhu appears there. Yes. When such *gaura-kīrtana* is going on, many *gaura-bhaktas* congregate together and chant loudly, [Maharaja loudly shouts:]

hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare
hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare

When this transcendental sound vibration touches the ears, can one stay inside of their house? [Maharaja begins loudly banging his fist on the podium.] If it enters into their ears, no one can stay inside. Only those who are like *nirjīvas* — dead matter or stones, can remain inside. Only stones stay inside the house when such *kīrtana* is going on. This *gaura-kīrtana* is the only inspiration, the only life-giving force to the *jīvas* in Kali-yuga.

Therefore we have this *saṅkīrtana-padayātrā* to save those souls, those who are dying out of ignorance, who have no life —no Krishna means no life. Krishna is life. Krishna says, *jīvanaṁ sarva-bhūteṣu* — "I am the life in all living entities." If you are not carrying Krishna in you, have you life? You have no life. You are dying at every moment. You are a dead body. You are living but dead. You are breathing like the bellows of a blacksmith. If there is no Krishna in you, what is the value of that life? That man or woman, who has no Krishna in them, is dead. What is the value of decorating a dead woman? Why do Gauranga Mahaprabhu and the *gaura-priya-janas*, the dear devotees of Gauranga Mahaprabhu, do this *padayātrā*, walking and walking so far, barefoot? Why do they do it? They never become tired. Rather, they get so much life. So much *ānanda*, transcendental pleasure is there, *pa-ibe paramānanda, ānanda apār* — unlimited *ānanda*, unlimited happiness. By performing this *padayātrā* you will get transcendental pleasure. If you chant Hare Krishna you will forget all of your bodily ills and ailments. You will get such transcendental pleasure, nectar, life! Therefore we do it.

Mahaprabhu's *priya-jana*, His dear devotee, our revered spiritual master Srila Prabhupada, started this. Mahaprabhu has taught it and Srila Prabhupada started it. This *padayātrā* is Mahaprabhu's *līlā* going on today. One who cannot accept it, will remain as a *mleccha*, *yavana*. Finally at the end of Kali-yuga, Kalki will come and annihilate them. But the fortunate living entities who accept and take part in *gaura-kīrtana*, who go out and take part in chanting, [Maharaja loudly shouts:]

hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare
hare rāma hare rāma rāma rāma hare hare

Such persons have life. They will not be annihilated.

We offer many thanks to the devotees who have taken part in this recent *padayātrā* in Western

Orissa. They have chanted throughout the hilly tracts and jungle areas of the land, filling the atmosphere with transcendental sound vibration, thereby giving opportunity to so many *jīvas* so that their life can be a success. Our request is that those who are intelligent, those who understand, those who are not stones, they take part in it.

Thank you very much. ❀

— Bhubaneswar, India, 30 December 1995.

In the Heart of His Devotees

Sri Murari Gupta's Sri Caitanya-carita Mahā-kāvya

The following is from a conversation between Murari Gupta and Damodar Pandit:

Once, after Nimai had eaten an offering of betel nut and spices presented by a visiting *brāhmaṇa*, the *brāhmaṇa* said to Sachi-mata, "Now I am departing. Kindly take great care of the body of your son and do not be inattentive for even half a moment."

When the *brāhmaṇa* left, Gaura abruptly stood up and swooned, falling like a rod to the ground. Seeing Viswambhar's condition, His mother became stricken with anxiety. She bathed him with the waters of the Ganga, which are equal to immortal nectar. Gaura then awoke, restored to wellbeing, and He happily continued His activities with natural vigor as before. Jagannath Mishra became astonished to hear of this event, and he exclaimed to his wife, "Certainly we cannot comprehend the power of the Lord's illusory energy!"

Upon hearing this divine narration from Murari Gupta, the *brāhmaṇa* Damodar Pandit said, "Blessed sir, what is this tale you have narrated? Lord Sri Krishna, the spiritual master of this cosmic manifestation, has by His free will taken birth as Viswambhar. Why then did the *brāhmaṇa* say to Sachi Ma, 'I shall go now. So take care of your son, dear lady.' For what reason did he speak thus? I am much confused at this. For how can the Lord's illusory energy affect the Lord? Kindly speak of this, and may this history of Sri Hari bring benefit to all the people of the world!"

Murari considered Damodar's words. Then, bowing to Sri Hari, he said, "Please hear me with rapt attention.

janasya bhagavad-dhyānāt kīrtanāt śravaṇād api
hareḥ praveśo hṛdaye jāyate sumahātmanaḥ

When a very pure soul meditates on Sri Hari or speaks and hears about Him, the Lord thereby enters and arises within his heart.

tasyānukāra cakre sa tat-tejas tat-arākramam
dadhāti puruṣo nityam ātma-dehādi-vismitaḥ

The Lord creates a semblance of Himself in the *bhakta*, endowing him with His own eternal potencies and prowess. Thus the *bhakta* forever forgets all identification with his material mind, body, and related attachments.

With the passage of time, as he becomes more and more aloof from externals, at last he performs his bodily functions spontaneously, as did the enduringly jubilant devotee Prahlad Maharaja in ancient times. One who bathes in the ocean feels a oneness with it. However, upon reaching the shore one remembers once more the separate state of his body. Similarly, the saintly wives of the cowherd men of Vraja would on occasion taste oneness with Lord Krishna [as in the *rāsa* dance, but when again they engaged in their household chores they felt duality]. The Lord performed this pastime to show the exalted stage attainable by the *kṛṣṇa-bhakta* who has awakened his *svarūpa* in relation to Sri Krishna. So that people are not confused regarding this point, Gaura Hari taught here that He lives and acts through the body of His devotee. Of this there is no doubt. ❀

— Texts 1.7.21-27 and 1.8.1-7.

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